



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

**José de Jesus Rivera**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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For Information Contact Public Affairs

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### **THREE INDICTED FOR FRAUDULENTLY CASHING VA CHECKS OF DECEASED HOUSEMATE**

**TUCSON, ARIZONA -- MARY J. TREICHEL, 32, ANTHONY H. ALTAMIRANO, 31, and MARSHA COLTON, 43,** were indicted by a federal grand jury, on February 16, 2000, on charges of Mail Fraud, Conspiracy, Aiding and Abetting, and Passing Forged Treasury Checks. The defendants were arrested on February 29, 2000, by agents from the Department of Veteran Affairs, Office of Investigations, the Secret Service, and officers from the Tucson Police Department.

Dorothy Gregory was a lawful recipient of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits. DIC benefits are administered by the Department of Veteran Affairs to dependants of deceased veterans. At the time of Dorothy Gregory's death, on August 12, 1995, her DIC benefits were being mailed to her home at 6309 E. Calle Castor, in Tucson Arizona. **ALTAMIRANO** and **COLTON** were residing with Ms. Gregory at the time of her death and failed to notify the VA. It is alleged that after her death, **TREICHEL** added Gregory's name to her individual bank account. It is further alleged that the three defendants converted Gregory's DIC benefit checks for their own use.

The investigation that led to the indictment was conducted by agents from the Department of Veteran Affairs, Office of Investigations; the Tucson Police Department; and the Secret Service. The prosecution is being handled by the United States Attorney's Office, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

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